

CLAIMS

1. A display of the type having both an activated, "on", state and an inactivated, "off", state, and being switchable between the two, which
5 display incorporates a capacitance sensor, able to detect the near presence of a user, together with means able to utilise the output of this sensor to effect activation of the display accordingly.
2. A display according to claim 1, in which the display comprises an
10 electroluminescent display.
3. A display according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which the capacitance sensor comprises a pair of spaced electrodes and suitable electronics to measure the capacitance of the pair and to output a signal in dependence
15 thereon.
4. A display according to claim 2 and claim 3, in which the electroluminescent display comprises a front electrode for activating light-emitting areas of the electroluminescent display, and in which one of the
20 pair of electrodes of the capacitance sensor is the front electrode.
5. A display according to claim 4, in which the other of the pair of electrodes forms a case of the display or a power terminal of a circuit driving and controlling the display.
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6. A display according to claim 5 in which the power terminal is a ground terminal.
7. A display according to any of claims 4 to 6 in which a diode is
30 provided to protect the capacitance sensor or means to effect activation from a voltage present at the front electrode.

8. A display according to any preceding claim, in which the capacitance sensor comprises a capacitance and the display is arranged to detect the time taken to charge the capacitance to a specific value.

5 9. A display according to claim 8, in which the display is arranged to charge the capacitance at two or more charging rates.

10. A display according to claim 9, in which the display is arranged to charge the capacitance at a first rate for a first period of time so as to
10 charge the capacitance to close to a threshold voltage, followed by a second, significantly slower, rate, until the threshold voltage is reached.

11. A display according to claim 10, in which the display is arranged to detect a change in the time taken to reach the threshold voltage to indicate
15 the presence of a user.

12. A display according to claim 10 or claim 11, in which the display is arranged to adjust the first period of time by feedback from the time taken to charge the capacitance to the threshold voltage.